

Components of the Truancy Prevention Program Include:

- **Data-driven** student selection and intervention
- **Weekly meetings** focusing on student attendance data and academics
- Consistent **accountability** and recognition for achievement
- **Mentoring**
- **Incentives** or rewards for improvements
- Individualized **goal-setting** and academic counseling
- Access to school and community **resources**
- Regular **communication** with parents and guardians
- A **graduation** program with certificates and gifts to recognize and reward students who reduce unexcused absences by at least 60%



A voluntary in-school program that gives special attention to attendance and academic needs of students to help them reach their full potential. Parent or guardian participation is encouraged.

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Truancy Prevention Program



Addressing personal, academic, school climate, and family-related factors that contribute to truant behavior

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND JOHN McCARTHY, STATE'S ATTORNEY



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Truancy has gained national attention as researchers understand its connection to poor academic performance and eventual dropout, substance abuse, criminal activity or victimization, and lower lifelong incomes.

In 2016, 1,964 Montgomery County students were habitually truant and 10,044 high school and middle school students missed 20 or more days.* Without intervention, these students face a lifetime of challenges.

In recognition of the scope and consequences of truancy, the State's Attorney's Office has partnered with Montgomery County Public Schools, members of the law enforcement community, and community volunteers to operate the Truancy Prevention Program with funding provided by the Montgomery County Council.

**Attendance data from 2015-2016 school year as reported by the Maryland State Department of Education. Data regarding elementary school students absent 20 or more days is not available.*

Maryland Law requires all children ages 5 to 17 to attend school regularly during the entire school year.

Parents or legal guardians who fail to send their child to school without a legal excuse can face fines or incarceration.

The Truancy Prevention Program is a voluntary and supportive program designed to keep children in school and families out of court.



Participating students from Montgomery County attend graduation in Annapolis, MD at the Maryland Governor's house. Photo by Tom Nappi.

The **Truancy Prevention Program** is a non-punitive, incentive-based and voluntary early intervention program. It consists of ten weekly in-school sessions where students and families work together with the principal, counselors, truancy program facilitator, Pupil Personnel Workers, and community members to identify and address the root causes of truancy before it becomes a chronic problem.

At the State's Attorney's Office, we know that truancy can be caused by complex school, family, and community factors. We tailor the in-school sessions to each student's individual circumstances and provide a web of support for each enrolled child and his/her family.

The program uses an individualized approach which has proven effective: **participants average a 60% reduction in unexcused absences.**

